

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following replacement paragraph [0009]:

[0009]       The nature and mode of operation of the present invention will now be more fully described in the following detailed description of the invention taken with the accompanying drawing figures, in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of the present invention installed integral with a vessel hull of a floatable vessel;

Figure 2 is a side view of the present invention installed integral with a hull of a floatable vessel;

Figure 3A is a side view of the present invention, mounted on a portion of a hull of a floatable vessel, in a retracted configuration;

Figure 3B is a side view of the present invention, mounted on a portion of a hull of a floatable vessel, in an extended configuration;

Figure 4A is a side view of the assembly of the present invention in a retracted configuration;

Figure 4B is a side view of the assembly of the present invention in an extended configuration, having a membrane attached to an inner portion;

Figure 4C is a side view of the assembly of the present invention in an extended configuration;

Figure 4D is a side view of the assembly of the present invention in an extended configuration, covered by a membrane;

Figure 5A is a top view of a second embodiment of the present invention, in a fully extended configuration;

Figure 5B is a top view of the second embodiment of the present invention, in a partially extended configuration;

Figure 5C is a top view of the second embodiment of the present invention, in a fully retracted configuration;

Figure 6A is a top view of a third embodiment of the present invention covered by a membrane, in a fully extended configuration;

Figure 6B is a top view of the third embodiment of the present invention covered by a membrane, in a partially extended configuration;

Figure 6C is a top view of the third embodiment of the present invention covered by a membrane, in a fully retracted configuration;

Figure 7A is a top view of a fourth embodiment of the present invention covered by a plurality of plates, in a fully extended configuration;

Figure 7B is a top view of the fourth embodiment of the present invention covered by a plurality of plates, in a partially extended configuration;

Figure 7C is a top view of the fourth embodiment of the present invention covered by a plurality of plates, in a fully retracted configuration;

Figure 8A is a side view of the fourth embodiment of the present invention mounted on a portion of a floatable vessel hull and fully extended;

Figure 8B is a side view of the fourth embodiment of the present invention mounted on a portion of a floatable vessel hull and fully extended;

Figure 9A is a side view of a fifth embodiment of the present invention mounted on a portion of a floatable vessel hull and fully extended;

Figure 9B is a side view of the fifth embodiment of the present invention mounted on a portion of a floatable vessel hull and fully extended;

Figure 10 is a side view of a sixth embodiment of the present invention mounted on a portion of a hull of ~~an airship or~~ a submersible vessel;

Figure 11 is a side view of the sixth embodiment with the assemblies of the present invention fully retracted;

Figure 12 is a rear view of a seventh embodiment of the present invention mounted on a portion of a hull of a submersible vessel, showing the assemblies fully extended;

Figure 12A is a side view of the seventh embodiment of the present invention, showing the assemblies fully extended;

Figure 13 is a rear view of the seventh embodiment of the present invention, showing the assemblies fully retracted;

Figure 14 is a front view of an eighth embodiment of the present invention mounted on a portion of a hull of a submersible vessel, showing the spherical assembly fully extended; and,

Figure 15 is a front view of the eighth embodiment of the present invention, showing the spherical assembly fully retracted;

Figure 16A is a detail of the assembly shown in Figure 4B, showing a pneumatic or hydraulic extension and retraction means in a retracted configuration;

Figure 16B is a detail of the assembly shown in Figure 4A, showing a pneumatic or hydraulic extension and retraction means in an extended configuration;

Figure 16C is a detail of the assembly shown in Figure 4B, showing a microelectromechanical extension and retraction means with the assembly extended; and,

Figure 16D is a detail of the assembly shown in Figure 4A, showing a microelectromechanical extension and retraction means with the assembly retracted[[:]].

Please insert new paragraph [0028A] on page 11, line 7, following existing paragraph [0028]:

[0028A] The truss assemblies shown in Figures 1-15 form arcuate shapes. In particular, the truss assemblies shown in these figures form a curved shape in two mutually orthogonal planes. Not only is the membrane 40 curved, but the assembly 38, beneath the membrane 40, is curved. For example, Figures 4A-4D show that assembly 38 forms, in an elevation plane, a curved surface. The profile ranges from elliptical to semi-circular, depending on the extent to which assembly 38 is retracted or extended. Figures 5A-5C and 6A-6C show that the assemblies are substantially curved in plan view also. Figures 7A-7B show the assemblies curved in a perspective view.